la Biennale di Venezia

72. Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica

To:
Shri. Narendra Modi
The Hon. Prime Minister,
Government of India

Copy to: Shri. Arun Jaitley
Minister of Information and Broadcasting

Venezia, October 1, 2015

Sir,

India, the world's largest democracy has always been to the world a country of stunning cultural and racial diversity. For us, it is a nation representing hope, tolerance and peace, a country of limitless potential as a rapidly growing economic super power, a land with a rich heritage of arts, culture and cinema, where the largest number of films are made. This image and adoration derive from the plurality and ingenuity of your spiritual vision and artistic expressions as well as from your values of tolerance, exemplified by Mahatma Gandhi, a figure uniquely respected around the world.

It is in that light that we sincerely urge you to engage with the students of the Film and Television of India over the ongoing crisis and initiate a dialogue with an open mind. We do feel that the students' concerns are most pertinent and serious and they are waiting to be addressed by your government.

The Film and Television Institute of India, the premier film school of your country, has been invaluable not only to your film industry but also to the cultural sphere of the Indian sub-continent and other Afro-Asian countries whose students have studied there. Many students from Europe and Latin America who have been there cherish fond memories of that Institute. For half a century it has continued to produce film makers who are renowned the world over.

The international community of film makers can't help noticing the dire crisis that FTII is going through. We feel sad that the students of one of the best film schools in the world are struggling to get their legitimate concerns addressed.

We hope that you will be able to engage with the students with an open mind, and be able to arrive at a solution that shows the level of seriousness and commitment you have towards the future of India's cinema and its' cultural stature as a modern nation.

Sincerely,

Alberto Barbera
Director
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